

The Potters House



STRIPPED DOWN TO EVERYTHING

Transcribed and Published by Livingsermons.com

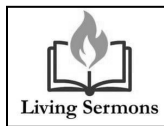
Stripped Down to Everything

Source: The Potters House

Preacher: touré roberts

Publisher: LivingSermons.com

Watch Live Video [Here](#)



Title: Stripped Down to Everything

Source: The Potters House

Preacher: Touré Roberts

Publisher: Livingsermons.com

© 2026 *Livingsermons.com*

All rights reserved.

No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without prior written permission from the copyright holders.

For the advancement of the Gospel of the Kingdom and the edification of the Body of Christ. **Scripture quotations** are taken from the *King James Version (KJV)* of the Holy Bible, which is public domain. **THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR SALE**

First Edition — 2026

All inquiries and permissions:

info.livingsermons@gmail.com

www.livingsermons.com

Transcribed, Edited, and Published by Livingsermons.com

For Kingdom impact worldwide.



Foreword

*In **Stripped Down to Everything**, Pastor Touré Roberts presents a profound biblical perspective on one of the most misunderstood experiences in the Christian life: pruning. Drawing from Jesus' teaching in **John 15**, he invites readers to reconsider moments of hardship, reduction, and uncertainty—not as evidence of God's absence, but as unmistakable signs of His intentional preparation.*

*Throughout this message, Pastor Roberts skillfully distinguishes between **separation** and **preparation**, reminding believers that although both may involve loss, only one is designed to produce greater fruit. With vivid illustrations from Scripture—including Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, Job, the rich young ruler, and the process of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly—he demonstrates that God often removes false coverings so that we may rediscover our true identity and complete dependence upon Him.*

One of the central truths woven throughout these pages is both simple and life-changing:

You are not being stripped down to nothing. You are being stripped down to everything.

For many readers, this message will provide language for seasons they have struggled to understand. If you have watched familiar securities disappear, experienced unexpected pruning, or questioned why God would allow painful transitions while you were faithfully serving Him, this sermon offers both biblical clarity and renewed hope.

*As editors, our assignment has been to preserve Pastor Roberts' voice, passion, and pastoral warmth while presenting this message in a format that encourages careful reading, meditation, and personal study. Apart from minor grammatical corrections, formatting improvements, and Scripture standardization using the **King James Version (KJV)** where appropriate, every effort has been made to maintain the integrity, cadence, and spiritual weight of the original sermon.*

We encourage you not to rush through these pages. Read prayerfully. Pause often. Reflect on the Scriptures. Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart, revealing any false coverings, misplaced dependencies, or subtle idols that may have quietly replaced simple trust in Christ.

May this message strengthen your confidence during seasons of pruning, deepen your dependence upon the True Vine, and remind you that God's process is always motivated by His love. The God who prunes is the same God who preserves, prepares, and ultimately causes His people to bear much fruit.

If these pages encourage your walk with Christ, we invite you to share this resource with others who may be navigating their own season of preparation. Our prayer at LivingSermons.com is that faithful biblical messages such as this continue to equip believers around the world, preserving the preached Word for both present and future generations.

May the Lord establish you, strengthen you, and bring forth His perfect purpose in your life.

Grace and peace,

— Wisdom Epsi

Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

Table of Contents

<i>Foreword</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>
<i>Publisher's Note</i>
<i>Main Message</i>
<i>Introduction</i>
<i>Stripped Down to Everything</i>
<i>Opening Prayer</i>
<i>Understanding the Mystery of Pruning</i>
<i>Fruit Is the Evidence of a Previous Connection</i>
<i>Separation or Preparation?</i>
<i>Naked and Unashamed</i>
<i>When Fruit Becomes Your Covering</i>
<i>Returning to Garden-Level Dependence</i>
<i>The Blessing Can Quietly Replace the Blesser</i>
<i>Stripped of False Coverings</i>
<i>Learning to Recognize God's Hand</i>
<i>God Is Bringing You to Your Fighting Weight</i>
<i>Pruning Is Spiritual Weight Cutting</i>
<i>The Camp Cocoon</i>
<i>Some Seasons Require Complete Transformation</i>
<i>Saved to the Uttermost</i>
<i>The Tension of the Cocoon</i>
<i>Closing Prayer</i>
<i>Prayer of Commitment</i>
<i>About The Potter's House</i>
<i>About Living Sermons</i>
<i>Join Our Team</i>
<i>We Are Social</i>

Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube, **at [the Potters House Official YouTube Channel](#)**

Livingsermons.com does not claim ownership of this message. All spiritual credit and ministerial authority belong to the preacher through whom the Word was delivered. Our role is that of stewards and editors—serving the Body of Christ by preserving and distributing life-giving messages in accessible digital formats.

Our commitment is excellence without dilution.

Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— ***Livingsermons.com***

A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here



Introduction

John 15:1–5 (NKJV)

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

I honor my father and my bishop, Bishop T.D. Jakes. Sir, I love you very much. I am extremely grateful for you, for my mom, and for my forever First Lady, Mrs. Jakes.
Thank you so much.

I am grateful for all of the pastors who are here, my fellow laborers in the Gospel, our ministers, elders, deacons, PMTs, and to all of you. I greet you in the name of the Lord.

Stripped Down to Everything

Before we get into this message, life has taught me the power of reframing circumstances.

Often, growth requires us to reframe the way we look at a situation. The lens through which you view your circumstances can become the difference between grief and gratitude. It can become the difference between joy and sorrow.

In the spirit of reframing, I want to challenge a very common phrase.

We've all heard someone say they were "**stripped down to nothing.**"

If I were to say, "Being stripped down to..." most people would instinctively finish the sentence with "**nothing.**"

But I want to pose a different question.

What if you're not being stripped down to nothing?

What if what's really happening is that you're being stripped down to everything?

That is my title today. That is what we're going to wrestle with together. **You're not being stripped down to nothing.**

You're being stripped down to everything.

Opening Prayer

Father, thank You so much for the opportunity to experience Your Word. Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Even now, Your Word still is You.

Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God, may we have a similar experience today. Cause Your Word to dwell among us in such a powerful way that it touches every heart and every mind under the sound of my voice as only You can.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. Lord, I thank You for the spirit of wisdom, revelation, insight, knowledge, and full access to Heaven's resources for the benefit and blessing of those You love so dearly.

Do a great work today.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Understanding the Mystery of Pruning

This is an interesting passage of Scripture. It is not unfamiliar. We've studied it, we've heard it preached, and often it is presented in a very encouraging way. People say, *"I'm in a pruning season."*

That sounds encouraging when someone else is preaching about it. But when you actually have to live through pruning, it can become confusing.

I want to talk about that today.

When you take a close look at this passage, Jesus points out two completely different circumstances.

One group is **not bearing fruit**, so the Father removes them. The other group **is bearing fruit**, yet the Father prunes them. That can be confusing.

I understand why those who are not bearing fruit experience loss. That makes sense. If you have every opportunity to produce fruit and you refuse to do so, then loss follows.

But what is difficult to understand is why the fruitful also experience loss. If I'm bearing fruit, it would seem that You would be pleased with my fruitfulness. It would seem that everything should go well for me.

Why should I have to lose anything if I'm doing exactly what I was created and designed to do?

The Complicated Nature of Fruit

This is the complicated nature of fruit. Fruit—and our relationship with it—is more complex than we often realize. From the very beginning of Scripture, we are commanded:

"Be fruitful and multiply."

Fruit is a good thing.

Psalm 1 also celebrates fruitfulness.

Psalm 1:1–3 (KJV)

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

That is alignment.

When we remain aligned with God, fruit naturally follows.

Fruit is good.

Fruit is God's desire.

Fruit is often the evidence that we have been connected with God.

So fruit, in itself, is not bad. But here is the issue. **Fruit can also be misleading.**

Stay with me.

We're going somewhere.

Fruit Is the Evidence of a Previous Connection

Fruit can suggest that you're presently connected. If I look at my tree and see fruit hanging from it, I naturally conclude, "*I'm connected.*"

But the reality is this: Fruit is simply the evidence of a **previous connection**. We're going to have some fun today. If I see fruit on my tree, it may appear that I have a current connection with God.

But all the fruit truly proves is that, at some point, there was a connection. Are you tracking with me?

This is the strange relationship between fruit and those who bear it. Fruit is wonderful—**until it becomes misleading**.

Separation or Preparation?

Now look back at the two groups Jesus describes.

From the outside, they both appear to be suffering loss.

Both experience something being cut away.

But they are in two completely different categories.

One is experiencing **separation**.

The other is experiencing **preparation**. It may look the same. It looks like loss.

It looks like something valuable is disappearing. But one person is actually being prepared for something greater. I have learned that God will often remove everything we've built our confidence upon so that He can reveal where our help truly comes from.

Stay with me.

Both the unfruitful and the fruitful lose something.

Both experience cutting.

Both experience reduction.

Both experience discomfort.

But the difference between the two is **connection**.

And I need someone to understand this:

Just because something is being removed doesn't mean you are being rejected.

Stay with me.

This is going to make sense.

Naked and Unashamed

Think back to the Garden of Eden.

Humanity was created in the image and likeness of God.

We enjoyed perfect relationship with Him.

We were connected to Him.

Our original condition was simple:

Naked and unashamed.

There was no shame because there was no separation.

But then everything changed.

Genesis 3:7 (KJV)

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

There is so much happening in this verse. After the serpent caused Adam and Eve to question God, they moved from **knowing**, to **wondering**, and ultimately to **wandering**.

It produced what I call a **mis-knowing**. Yes, they knew they were naked. But they misunderstood what nakedness actually meant. They misperceived it. How do we know?

Because they immediately began acting differently.

When Fruit Becomes Your Covering

Notice what happened next. They went to a **fruit-bearing tree**.

A fig tree.

They took something that came from a fruit-bearing tree and used it as their covering.

They shifted from God's covering to the covering that came from fruit. Walk with me. This reveals the strange relationship we can develop with fruit. Before the fall, they were already covered because they were connected to the Source.

They weren't lacking.

They weren't afraid.

They didn't need protection. They didn't need another covering. But suddenly, the fruit became their protector. Their relationship with fruit changed.

Returning to Garden-Level Dependence

I believe God wants to bring many of us back to that Garden-level nakedness. When God prunes us, He is stripping away our dependence upon the fruit. He is reminding us that life is not about the fruit.

The fruit is not divine.

The Lord is the Vine.

So, in order to restore us to the truth about our Source and our covering, God prunes us.

He strips away our dependence on what we've produced so that we can return to complete dependence upon Him.

Can I take my time and teach this?

The Blessing Can Quietly Replace the Blesser

Let's make this practical. It is very easy to rely more on the blessing than on the Blesser.

The shift is subtle. Very subtle.

The shift is so subtle that it never announces itself. There is a connection between the blessing and the Blesser because the Blesser gave it to you.

You prayed for it. God placed it in your hands.

So the fruit feels like God.

It smells like God.

It reminds you of God.

Yet it is not God.

When God purposes to do something new **in you** and **through you**, He recognizes that the season ahead requires a purer version of you.

Because of that, He begins stripping away the very things that have quietly become idols in your life.

Why would God prune the one who is already bearing fruit?

Because the fruitful have a tendency to seek shelter beneath the shade of the fruit instead of resting beneath the One who gave them the ability to produce it.

Can I talk to you like this today?

We're going to get to the good part in just a moment.

Stripped of False Coverings

Being stripped down to everything is really about being stripped of **false coverings**. It is about being stripped of self-made identity. When God removes what we've been hiding behind, He is not exposing us in order to shame us.

He is restoring us to truth.

Where God is taking some of you, you are going to have to be the real thing. You won't be able to be a fair-weather believer—someone who praises God when life is good but begins to doubt Him when life becomes difficult.

God is tempering our lives so that we are no longer moved by either blessing or hardship. I feel the Holy Ghost. He wants us to become **steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**.

Come hell or high water, we remain unshaken.

That is where God is taking us.

The Bible speaks of maturing until we are no longer tossed to and fro.

God is raising up a people who remain steady—people who don't lose their footing every time difficult news arrives.

To produce that kind of stability, He has to strip away the things we have subconsciously associated with His hand upon our lives.

Learning to Recognize God's Hand

God has many ways to bless us. Yet we often define God's blessing only by the things that feel good. Can I talk to you for a moment?

Without question, difficult days will come.

If the enemy convinces you that hardship means God has abandoned you, you'll walk away from your faith. You'll become tossed to and fro by every deceptive doctrine.

Let me tell you something. Satan has a doctrine prepared for you. But we are entering a season where you're going to have to learn how to take a licking and keep moving.

You're going to have to know...

...that you know...

...that you know...

...that you know...

...that you know.

This is what walking by faith truly looks like. This is where the Church is headed. But here's the beautiful part. Those who truly know God are about to be anointed in this season to accomplish great exploits.

You're going to experience the power of God in ways you've never experienced before.

I see the dead raised. I see demons fleeing. I see strongholds breaking. I see you laying hands on the sick, and they recover.

Come on, somebody!

You're about to become a version of yourself you've never seen before. If you receive that Word, give God a shout!

God Is Preparing You Before the Battle

This is what the entire process is about. God sees what you need before you need it. He knows what is coming. He knows what He has placed upon your life. Because of that, He sends you into **camp** to bring you down to your fighting weight.

I feel the Holy Ghost. I was thinking about professional fighters. There's a reason they always talk about getting down to their fighting weight. Before a fight, they strip away excess weight. They remove what has become normal.

They eliminate comfort. This doesn't happen in public. It happens in camp. One of my closest friends is a championship fighter. Before every major fight, they disappear into camp. It is just the fighter and the trainer.

They leave one way...

...and they come back another. Some of you don't even realize it...

You're in camp.

I came to tell you that this is not happening **to** you. It is happening **for** you. You're in camp because something greater is coming.

God is saying,

"I love you too much to leave you out of shape."

"I'm building you."

"I'm developing you."

"I'm strengthening you."

"I'm anointing you."

God Is Bringing You to Your Fighting Weight

In camp, excess weight is removed. Normal habits begin to disappear. Comfort is stripped away. Normal and familiar eventually become the enemy.

Did you hear what I just said?

Normal and familiar can become enemies. When everything becomes too predictable, a fighter actually becomes nervous because they understand they must continue to grow. They must continue to level up. I've reached a place in my own life where, when everything becomes too quiet...

...when everything becomes too smooth...

...when I haven't had to fight anything...

I start asking,

"God, am I even in Your will?"

Because Your Word tells me I'm in a battle. I'm not suggesting we go looking for trouble. I'm simply saying that trouble is not evidence that God has left you. Sometimes trouble simply means...

you're in camp.

Heavy Does Not Mean Strong

A fighter begins eliminating everything they've grown accustomed to. Think about this. A heavier fighter may **feel** stronger...

...but is often much less effective. How does that relate to us?

When everything is going well...

...that's often when we feel strongest.

When money is flowing...

Strong.

When relationships are healthy...

Strong.

When the children are thriving...

Strong.

When your body is free from pain...

Strong.

When opportunities keep multiplying...

Strong.

When the question isn't whether you'll eat, but what you'll choose to eat...

Strong.

But that's an illusion.

The same principle applies to a fighter.

More weight...

—or we might call it more blessing— can produce slower hands.

Less endurance.

Reduced sharpness. Compromised discipline. Yet the fighter doesn't recognize it while carrying the extra weight. God loves you too much to leave you spiritually heavy.

Pruning Is Spiritual Weight Cutting

A fighter willingly submits to a process that feels like loss.

But it isn't loss.

It's optimization.

God is optimizing you.

He's bringing you to your fighting weight.

Pruning is spiritual weight cutting.

It is God removing distractions.

Removing unhealthy dependencies.

Removing identities you've already outgrown.

Removing habits that slow your progress.

Turn to your neighbor and say,

"You're in camp."

If you don't understand what God is doing, you'll think He's taking something away from you.

But Heaven is saying, "No."

"I'm preparing you."

"I'm getting you ready."

Because some of what you're losing isn't strength.

It's weight. And we've mistaken weight for strength.

Why does God begin this process now?

Because fighters don't wait until fight night to lose the weight. If it were up to us, we'd wait until the last minute. God doesn't.

He prepares us ahead of time so that victory is already built into the process.

He works in camp.

In the quiet place.

In the hidden place.

In the disciplined place.

Nobody applauds the weight cut.

Nobody celebrates training camp.

People only celebrate the championship.

You Need Less, Not More

In this season, you don't need more to win.

You need less.

The Lord told me to tell you this:

You're going to accomplish more with less.

You're not being reduced.

You're being refined for greater impact.

The Camp Cocoon

Let's talk about this camp cocoon. Think about a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. That transformation happens inside a cocoon. It's hidden. It's isolated.

Development is taking place where nobody else can see it. But here's what's fascinating. The caterpillar doesn't simply evolve into a butterfly. It actually dissolves.

Study the process. It doesn't gradually morph into something new. Everything that looked like a caterpillar is stripped away. Before becoming a butterfly, it literally becomes what some scientists describe as a kind of caterpillar soup.

Nothing recognizable remains. And yet...

God is still working. The caterpillar is stripped down to everything.

Some Seasons Require Complete Transformation

We often talk about becoming a new version of ourselves. I understand that language. But there are seasons when God isn't creating a "2.0" version of you.

Sometimes He must strip you all the way down so He can reveal the person He designed you to be for the season you're entering. This isn't merely evolution.

It's something entirely different. The caterpillar loses its former identity completely. Imagine how disorienting that must be. It's hidden inside the cocoon.

It's dark.

Everything familiar has disappeared. Its entire structure has dissolved. Yet all is not lost.

Because sometimes, in order for God to shape you into the person He knew before He formed you in your mother's womb, He cannot simply upgrade you. Some things cannot be upgraded. Sometimes the old system is beyond repair. It has to be replaced. In the same way, there are seasons when certain versions of you cannot simply be improved. **They have to be dissolved.** There is no way around this process. There is only a way through it. Think about Jesus. He had to go all the way down.

Do you hear me?

He had to go all the way down in order to come all the way up—and to bring us with Him. I began thinking about something. Why would God allow us to go through experiences that take us all the way down?

Couldn't He just take us halfway?

Couldn't we negotiate this?

"Lord, can You take me only three-quarters of the way down? Do I really have to go all the way?"

Then I saw something in Scripture that helped me understand why God can trust this process.

Saved to the Uttermost

Hebrews 7:25 (KJV) says:

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

If He is able to save you **to the uttermost**, then He can also sustain you when life takes you to what feels like the uttermost. He can bring you all the way back because His saving power reaches every depth. That is why God is never afraid of the process.

He already knows the outcome.

The Tension of the Cocoon

Let's talk about the tension of this stripping process. I was thinking about what many Christians call **Holy Saturday**. We all know about Good Friday.

We celebrate Resurrection Sunday. Good Friday was the crisis. Sunday was the breakthrough. But we don't often talk about Holy Saturday. Holy Saturday is the in-between.

It's camp.

It's the cocoon.

I can survive Good Friday because I still have hope that God will deliver me.

I know my God is able.

I may not enjoy the suffering, but I believe breakthrough is coming.

Then Saturday arrives.

And it isn't Sunday yet.

Sunday is easy.

Sunday is resurrection.

Sunday is celebration.

But Holy Saturday...

That's the difficult place.

Because Holy Saturday gives us the hidden gift of tension.

Stay with me.

This is where most people quit.

Most people quit in camp.

Most people give up in the cocoon.

Not because they have no expectation of breakthrough.

But because they're trapped between the crisis and the breakthrough.

They're in the middle.

Sometimes that middle season lasts a long time.

And even when it doesn't, it feels long.

Yet something beautiful is taking place there.

Holy Saturday is a gift.

It is a place where purity and maturity are formed in ways they cannot be formed anywhere else.

It is the place where you wrestle.

It is where you confront every fear.

It is where the enemy continually reframes your circumstances with lies, and you must answer every lie with the truth of God's Word.

The battle is brutal.

It is bloody.

It is ugly.

It is difficult.

And much of it must be fought alone.

You can't bring your mother into that place.

You can't bring your father.

You can't bring your pastor.

You can't bring your spouse.

It is just you...

...and God.

Living on What God Already Said

One of the hardest parts of camp is that God often doesn't say anything new.

Sometimes He intentionally remains silent.

Why?

Because there comes a season when you must live off what He has already spoken.

That previous word must now prove itself in your life.

God says,

"I'm not giving you another word."

"I've already spoken."

"You've already been trained."

"You've already been equipped."

"I've been preparing you your whole life."

Every Sunday.

Every Wednesday.

Every sermon.

Every podcast.

Every season.

Every experience.

God has been making deposits into your spirit.

He knows exactly what He placed inside you.

Now He says,

"I need to bring you down to your fighting weight."

"I have to strip away everything else until all that's left is My Word."

Holy Saturday Is Where Believers Are Made

Holy Saturday is where believers are truly formed.

I feel that.

Even Jesus experienced this principle.

Before the Cross...

Before the grave...

Before His public ministry...

There was the wilderness. There was His own Holy Saturday. For forty days the enemy attacked Him. Satan lied to Him. He attempted to reframe His identity. He attempted to distort His circumstances. But Jesus answered every temptation with the truth of God's Word. He was confronting two realities. The reality Satan presented...

...and the reality His Father had spoken. Because Jesus **was** the Word, He knew which reality to embrace. After that wilderness season, He came out in the power of the Spirit, and His ministry began. Some of you have been despising camp. Some of you have misunderstood the cocoon. But I am telling you there is something beautiful happening inside that tension.

It's the place where the prayer becomes,

"Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." (Mark 9:24, KJV)

It is where unbelief dies. It is where faith becomes settled. You emerge with a knowing. You come out with confidence. You stand taller. You become unshakable.

Five Things to Remember While You're in Camp

1. God Knows Exactly Where You Are

Job 23:10 (KJV)

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

You can be in camp. You can be inside the cocoon. And it may feel as though God has forgotten you. That is not true.

God knows exactly where you are. In Job's story, God permitted the process because He had already seen what Job would become on the other side. God would never arrange your camp unless He had already seen your victory. Not merely surviving...

...but becoming better because of it. You are not lost in the process. You are positioned in purpose. God never mismanages purpose. He never mismanages lives. He never mismanages destinies. We simply have to trust Him.

2. When You Can't See God's Hand, Trust His Heart

There will be seasons when you cannot detect God's hand. Yet His hand is holding you the entire time.

Psalms 37:23–24 (KJV) says:

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."

You may feel as though you're falling.

You may feel stripped. You may even pray, *"Lord, I wish You would put Your hand on me."*

And all the while, God is saying, *"My hand is already on you."*

"My hand is the reason you're still breathing."

"My hand is why you're still standing."

"My hand is why this trial hasn't destroyed you."

When you cannot see His hand...

Trust His heart.

3. You Are Safe in the Process

Yes, camp can be frightening.

Yes, the cocoon can feel lonely.

But you are safe.

Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV) declares:

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

God is not experimenting with your life. He is executing His perfect plan. Are you hearing me?

Everything He allows serves His purpose for your life.

4. This Season Is Temporary

2 Corinthians 4:17 (KJV) says:

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

I'll be honest. It may not feel like a light affliction. If you're in the middle of it, it probably feels very heavy. The apostle Paul is not minimizing your pain. He is speaking with the perspective of someone who has already seen what God produces through suffering. Once God finishes bringing you through camp...

Once He finishes the work of the cocoon...

Once your wings have emerged...

You'll look back and say, *"That was only a light affliction."* As Romans 8:18 reminds us:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (KJV)

Remember this. The season is temporary.

5. Your Emergence Is Certain If You Don't Quit

You are coming out...

...if you don't quit.

Galatians 6:9 (KJV) declares:

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Don't quit. Your emergence is certain.

God Is Preparing His Church

I am convinced that God is developing His people.

I do not believe the average expression of Christianity we've seen up to this point is sufficient for the days ahead. I believe God is placing us into camp.

He is bringing us to a divine, spiritual fighting weight. Not merely so we can survive the coming seasons...

...but so we can thrive in them. I believe with all my heart that God is preparing His people to be the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath. But that will never happen while we're still living on spiritual milk. It will never happen if we're simply playing church. It will never happen if we're easily shaken.

Everything that can be shaken must be shaken...

...so that what cannot be shaken will remain. There is a version of you that can withstand this season. There is a version of you that has been called to do great exploits.

Deep is calling unto deep. God is shaking everything around you so He can reveal what He has always known about you.

I feel the Holy Ghost.

I wish I had a thousand people ready to become everything God created them to be.

Send me to camp.

Send me to the cocoon.

Lord, I don't want to remain lacking.

Count It All Joy

James says,

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:2–4, KJV)

How can you count it joy while you're suffering?

Because you know what the trial is producing.

It is producing endurance.

It is producing maturity.

It is producing completeness.

You are not going down.

You are coming up.

You are not being stripped down to nothing.

You are being stripped down to everything.

Becoming the Harvest

I wish I had about fifteen hundred radical, Holy Ghost-hungry people giving God worship in this house!

I know what I'm talking about. You're getting ready to move differently. You're getting ready to become steadfast and unmovable. I'm not going to lie to you. The process is expensive.

But it's worth it. He's the God of the harvest.

- Sow that seed.
- Sow that suffering.
- Sow that struggle.
- Sow that relentlessness.

I hear the Lord saying,

"If you sow it, you will become the harvest."

I won't even have to send you a harvest. You'll look in the mirror and realize **you are the harvest**. You'll say,

- *"Look at what the Lord has done."*
- *"Look at what He made me into."*
- *"Look at how He shaped me."*
- *"Look at how He raised me."*
- *"Look at how anxiety is gone."*
- *"Look at how depression is gone."*
- *"Look at how strong I've become."*
- *"Look at how I no longer need the things I once thought I couldn't live without."*

I've discovered...

All I ever needed was Him.

Strip me, Lord.

Strip me.

I don't want anything in my life that's lying to me.

If You have to take it...

Take it.

When God Reveals Hidden Idols

We have idols we didn't even know we had.

Let me tell you how you recognize an idol.

If losing it causes you to question God...

...it has become an idol.

If losing it causes you to lose your faith...

...it has become an idol.

God is asking us in this season,

"What has quietly taken My place in your heart?"

Then He says,

"I'm not stripping you down to nothing."

"I'm stripping you down to everything."

If the enemy can remove something from your life and it causes you to question your entire relationship with God...

...that thing had become an idol.

God wants to bring us back to the place where we can honestly say:

"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21, KJV)

And like Job again:

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." (Job 13:15, KJV)

And with the psalmist:

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm 20:7, KJV)

Preparing for the Days Ahead

Can we go a little deeper?

We're moving into a season when life will become more difficult.

The enemy will offer relief.

Can I speak prophetically for a moment?

This is exactly what Satan did to Jesus.

Jesus was hungry.

But it wasn't ordinary hunger.

It was a hunger produced by God.

The Spirit had led Him into the wilderness to fast.

Satan came and said,

"Eat some bread."

Jesus answered,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4, KJV)

God is making us stronger. He is making us clearer. He is preparing us so that we do not become like Judas.

Don't Become Another Judas

Judas was faithful while everything was going well. He walked with the other disciples. Nothing in Scripture suggests he began as a corrupt man. He was moving with everyone else. But pressure exposed him. Circumstances overwhelmed him.

He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Look how low he fell. It's easy to read that story and say,

"I would never do that."

Not so fast. That is exactly why God strips us. Sometimes He strips us of the very things we once thanked Him for. Because those blessings can quietly become our new covering.

Don't Cover Yourself with the Blessing

Adam and Eve did the same thing. They moved from trusting God...

...to trusting the blessing. They covered themselves with fig leaves.

God came asking, *"Where art thou?"* (Genesis 3:9, KJV)

Adam answered, *"I was afraid."*

So he took leaves from the fruit-bearing tree and attempted to cover himself with what the blessing had produced. How often do we do the same thing?

We look at that story and think, *"I'd never do that."*

Not so fast. Every new dimension God has brought me into has required me to surrender the previous one. Let me say that another way. Sometimes the very level you've been praying for becomes the level God uses to test your heart. He asks, *"Was it really about Me..."*

"Or was it about the level?"

The Rich Young Ruler

Think about the rich young ruler. Jesus challenged him:

"Sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor... and come, take up the cross, and follow me." (Mark 10:21, KJV)

Notice what Jesus was offering. He wasn't asking the man to lose everything and then walk away. He was inviting him into deeper fellowship. The rich young ruler wanted to know what was missing in his life.

Jesus answered, *"One thing thou lackest."*

The issue wasn't that he possessed wealth. The problem was that the wealth possessed him. His greatest struggle wasn't immorality. It wasn't addiction. Jesus identified something even deeper. *"You're still covering yourself with fig leaves."*

The Bible says the young man walked away sorrowful. He knew Jesus was right. But the thing had hold of him.

Whatever You Surrender to God Is Never Lost

Peter later said, *"Lord, we've left everything to follow You."*

Jesus responded:

"There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time... and in the world to come eternal life." (Mark 10:29–30, KJV)

Do you see it?

The issue has never been the fruit. The issue has always been what we use as our covering.

Abraham's Greatest Test

There is no other way to bring you to your fighting weight. God has to shake things. He has to test things. Think about Abraham. God wasn't trying to destroy Isaac.

He was stripping Abraham of his dependence upon Isaac. It was as though God said,

"You love that boy, don't you?"

"You prayed for him."

"You cherish him."

"Now let Me hold him for a moment."

"I'm going to need that."

There was nothing wrong with the blessing.

God isn't a murderer.

In **Genesis 22**, just before Abraham sacrificed Isaac, the Lord stopped him.

Then God declared:

"Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." (Genesis 22:12, KJV)

Only then did God reaffirm His covenant blessing:

"...in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed..."
(Genesis 22:17, KJV)

Abraham became the father of faith because nothing—not even God's greatest gift—meant more to him than God Himself.

You're Simply in Camp

Some of you are simply in camp. God is bringing you down to your fighting weight.

Remember His promise:

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9, KJV)

Don't quit.

An Invitation to the Altar

Every time I teach, I make my notes available so people can continue meditating on God's Word throughout the week.

But before anything else, I want to pray. Here's what I want you to do. Identify what is currently being stripped away from your life. You may think it's the enemy.

Perhaps it is. But remember Job. Even when Satan attacked, God used the process for Job's ultimate good. God saw the restoration before Job ever entered the trial.

Job eventually received far more than he had before. More importantly, he came out knowing God differently. Job declared:

"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." (Job 42:5, KJV)

That is true knowing. So I want you to ask yourself: What is being stripped away?

What idol have I been covering myself with?

What is God putting His finger on?

Bring it to the altar. Lay it before Him. No matter what it is.

Reframe the Process

If you're in camp...

Reframe it.

And if you're not in camp today...

You will be someday.

We all need it.

Don't interpret it as punishment. See it as pruning. Go back to the text. There were two groups. Both experienced loss. But only one was truly losing. The other was being prepared. God is getting you ready. He's bringing you to your fighting weight.

This Is About What's Next

Here's another reason God wants you to become unmoved by either blessing or hardship. Because some of you are about to steward levels of influence and provision you've never imagined.

For some, it will come through business. For others, through leadership, ministry, or opportunity. The blessing itself cannot be allowed to change you.

- Money changes people.
- Influence changes people.
- Success changes people.

That's why God is settling your heart now. Some of you are being prepared for opportunities that would have carried you away had you not first been stripped.

Even in business negotiations, someone who isn't desperate carries themselves differently.

They negotiate differently.

They move with peace.

With patience.

With confidence.

With stability.

God is establishing that posture within you.

Because what is coming requires it.

This message isn't ultimately about where you are today.

It's about where God is taking you next.

God never prepares a fighter when the fight begins.

He prepares the fighter beforehand.

So reframe the process.

This is not punishment.

This is pruning.

This is preparation.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for Your faithful work in our lives.

*Give us grace to embrace the camp, endure the cocoon, and trust the pruning process.
Strip away every false covering, every hidden idol, and every misplaced dependency
until You alone become our confidence and our covering.*

*Teach us to trust Your heart when we cannot trace Your hand. Bring us to the spiritual
fighting weight You have prepared for us so that we may stand firm, remain
unshaken, and fulfill every purpose You have ordained for our lives.*

*We declare that we are not being stripped down to nothing. By Your grace, we are
being stripped down to everything You created us to be.*

In Jesus' mighty name,

Amen.

An Invitation to Surrender

And I want you, if you have been wrestling with this, to stop fighting the process.

Surrender to it.

God has you.

You're safe.

He knows exactly where you are. Trust His heart. Know that this season is temporary, and everything will work together and be resolved if you do not quit.

The Call to Salvation

If you're here today and you do not know the Lord, and you want to know Him...

Maybe you're here feeling uncovered. Maybe you feel naked and ashamed. I want everyone to stand, if you can. This is a holy moment. We're almost finished. If you're here and you feel uncovered...

If you feel ashamed...

God truly loves you. And hear me carefully: **He is not the One making you feel ashamed.**

Someone here is struggling with addiction.

The Lord says,

"I'm going to break it today if you give it to Me."

Maybe that's your idol.

Maybe that's the very thing God is shaking.

He says,

"If you surrender it, I'll take it."

If that's you, come and meet me here.

That was very clear from the Lord.

Come.

You've wanted to be free.

Now is your moment of opportunity.

All you have to do is say,

"God, I give it to You."

And that thing is going to break right here at this altar during prayer.

Hallelujah.

To Those Watching Online

If you're watching by livestream, this invitation is for you as well.

You're not excluded because you're not in this room.

You're in this moment.

If there's something you need to lay down, place it before the Lord.

Say:

"God, I'm laying down this addiction."

If alcoholism is destroying your life, your family, and your future, surrender it.

If you're struggling with drugs...

Give it to Him.

Come into agreement with God.

Stop wrestling.

Stop justifying it.

Come into agreement, and God will break its power.

The Scripture says:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (*1 John 1:9, KJV*)

The word **confess** means *to speak the same thing*—to come into agreement with God.

When I confess it...

When I agree with God about it...

He is faithful not only to forgive,

but also to cleanse.

Jesus said,

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." (*John 15:3, KJV*)

Prayer

Father,

I was obedient to the word You gave me to speak.

Your Word will not return unto You void, but it will accomplish the purpose for which You sent it.

I thank You that Your Word is more than revelation and instruction.

It is anointed to produce what it declares.

As Your sons and daughters come into agreement with this Word, I thank You for breakthrough happening right now—in their hearts, in their minds, in their spirits, and in their souls.

I thank You that Your hand is upon each of them.

Bless them.

Manifest breakthrough.

Give them peace.

Deliver them.

Uproot what must be uprooted.

Impart strength.

Heal.

Cleanse.

Set them apart.

Lord, I believe You're making a clear path before them.

Where there were once obstacles, I hear You saying,

"I'm going ahead of you.

I'm making your crooked paths straight."

The way forward is opening.

You are freeing Your people to walk into it.

It's like the woman caught in adultery.

She remained trapped until Jesus said,

"Go..."

He made a way for her to move forward.

He delivered her from bondage and from every accusation.

And today You're saying,

"Go.

I've made a way for you.

Walk in victory."

Thank You for Your precious love for Your people.

Thank You for the sovereign work You have done in their hearts and minds.

They will never be the same again.

This is not merely an upgrade.

This is not an evolution.

This is an emergence.

And the gates of hell cannot stop it.

They cannot slow it.

They cannot quench it.

This is the Lord's doing,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Repeat after me:

Heavenly Father,

I thank You for Your love.

I thank You for Your Word,

the Word You have spoken to me.

I receive it today.

Thank You for Jesus.

Thank You for making Him, who knew no sin,

to bear all of mine—

all of my weakness,

all of my limitations,

all of my shortcomings,
every place where I missed the mark.

You placed it upon His body
and nailed it to the Cross.

You put it to death.

And as He was raised,

free and victorious,

on the third day,

because I am in Him,

I am raised also.

God,

I trust You with this season.

You will never leave me

nor forsake me.

You will walk with me.

You will talk with me.

You will protect me.

You will keep me.

I love You, Lord.

Today I surrender

everything that has become an idol in my life.

I will not put my trust

in things,

or in fruit.

I put my trust

in You,

and You alone.

Today I rededicate

my heart,

my mind,

and my soul

to You.

I am Yours.

Have Your way in my life.

I trust You.

You who have begun a good work in me

will complete it

until the day of Jesus Christ.

I know You are faithful

to keep

what I have entrusted to You.

I love You, Lord,

because You first loved me.

Holy Spirit,

fill me to overflowing.

Give me the mind of Christ.

Strengthen me.

Establish me

like never before.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Closing Remarks

Two quick things before we go.

If you're joining the church today, our pastors are waiting to pray with you.

If you want to go deeper into today's message, you can access my teaching notes on Substack. Listen again, watch the message, and continue meditating on what God has spoken.

I'll also see many of you outside for the book signing.

I love you.

God bless you.

The Potter's House Invitation

At The Potter's House, we are invested in you—not just in what you do, but in who you are becoming.

We believe we are better together.

We need one another to grow in holiness, encourage one another, remain accountable, and continue maturing in Christ.

As God positions us to serve every soul, we believe that every act of giving is an act of faith and agreement with what God is doing.

We are honored to partner with you in reaching lives both near and far.

This is your invitation not merely to be a spectator, but to become part of this family—a people committed to advancing Kingdom solutions through every season of life.

Your generosity, your service, and your love for this house are not simply acts of kindness.

They are ministry.

If this message has spoken to your heart, we invite you to become a member today.

We want to do life with you.

And don't forget to share this message with someone who needs it.

It may become the catalyst for the breakthrough they have been praying for.

Wherever you are, always remember:

God sees you.

God loves you.

And so do we.



About The Potter's House

The Potter's House is an intergenerational church passionately committed to uplifting humanity by embodying Christ's call to salvation while addressing the most pressing challenges facing our world—both locally and globally.

At its core, The Potter's House believes that true transformation requires more than spiritual growth alone. In an ever-changing world, thriving demands a holistic approach to human development—one that nurtures spiritual depth, emotional resilience, meaningful community, intellectual growth, and economic empowerment.

With a mission rooted in faith and innovation, The Potter's House meets people at every stage of life, providing practical solutions, spiritual guidance, and empowering opportunities designed to help individuals and families evolve with purpose, strength, and power.

As a global voice of hope and restoration, The Potter's House remains dedicated to building lives, strengthening communities, and advancing the Kingdom of God through transformative ministry.

Follow on:

- [Official Website](#)
- [YouTube Official Channel](#)
- [Official Instagram Account](#)



About Living Sermons

Our Vision

To become the world's largest digital platform for ebooks transcribed from live sermons, preserving and spreading the spoken Word of God across nations and generations.

Our Mission

At LivingSermons.com, our mission is to take the living voice of God spoken through His servants and transform it into accessible PDF resources, making salvation-centred truth available to the ends of the earth. We believe that the spoken Word carries divine power, and by preserving these messages in written form, we help extend their reach beyond pulpits, borders, and generations.

Why We Exist

Many life-changing sermons are preached and forgotten with time. We exist to preserve these divine utterances, making them available for study, meditation, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Through this work, we are committed to ensuring that no revelational truth is lost, but that every inspired message can continue to speak, heal, transform, and bring men into the knowledge of Christ.



Join Our Team

Let us preserve God's spoken Word together and take the Gospel further.

LivingSermons is raising Kingdom-minded volunteers across the world to help transform live sermons into lasting digital resources. If you have the burden to serve and the skill to contribute, there is a place for you.

Volunteer Opportunities

- ***Prayer Intercessors:*** Stand with us in prayer as we labour to spread God's Word across nations.
- ***Transcribers:*** Convert sermon recordings into accurate transcripts.
- ***Editors:*** Refine transcripts into polished, readable eBooks.
- ***Bloggers:*** Create SEO-friendly posts to announce and distribute newly published books.
- ***Social Media Managers:*** Share books online, grow our reach, and engage our global community.
- ***Language Translators:*** Help translate sermons into different languages so more people can access the truth.
- ***Graphics Designers:*** Design book covers, promotional materials, and visual content for outreach.

Become a Volunteer Today

Join the mission and use your gift to help preserve revival voices for generations to come. [Join Here](#)

We Are Social

Instagram: [instagram.com/livingsermons](https://www.instagram.com/livingsermons)

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/livingsermons>